GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Public Servants - Commercial Tax Department - Allegations of corruption, harassment, indiscipline and abuse of official power by the officers and staff of Visakhapatnam-II Division - Common Disciplinary proceedings initiated under Rule 24 of A.P.C.S. (CC&A) Rules, 1991 - Articles of Charges issued - Inquiry Officer appointed – Inquiry report submitted and communicated - Certain charges proved - Imposed a penalty of stoppage of one annual grade increment with cumulative effect on Charged Officer Sri M. Sudhakara Rao, Joint Commissioner (State Tax), Visakhapatnam-II Division - Orders - Issued.

REVENUE (VIGILANCE-VI) DEPARTMENT

G.O.RT.No. 126 Dated: 17-02-2025

Read the following: -

1. Complaint received from Sri P.S.N.Sastry, Advocate through e-mail dt.01.12.2022.
2. G.O.Ms.No.02, Revenue (CT-II) Dept., dt.02.01.2023.
3. G.O.Rt.No.01, Revenue (CT-II) Dept., dt.02.01.2023.
4. G.O.Rt.No.159, Revenue (Vig.VI) Dept., dt.15.02.2023.
5. G.O.Rt.No.160, Revenue (Vig.VI) Dept., dt.15.02.2023.
6. Orders of Honorable High Court in W.P.No.5934 of 2023, dt.16.03.2023 filed by the C.O. Sri T.Someswara Rao, AEO, O/o.AC (ST), Airport Circle, Visakhapatnam.
7. G.O.Ms.No.175, Revenue (Vig.VI) Dept., dt.13.04.2023.
8. From the Addl.Commissioner (ST) & Inquiry Officer Report Ref.No. ROVJA/58/ VIZ-ENO/2023, dt.05.05.2023.
9. Orders of Honorable High Court of AP in W.P.No.11972/2023, dt.05.05.2023 filed by Sri J.Dharma Paul, AEO.
10. From the CCST, Lr.Ref.No.V1/61/2023, dt.07.06.2023.
11. Govt.Memo.No.1926769-19021(42)/4/2022-2, dt.24.08.2023.
12. Representation of Sri M.Sudhakara Rao, JC (ST) Visakhapatnam–II, dt.13.11.2023.

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ORDER: -

Whereas, in the reference 1st read above, the complaint received from Sri P.S.N.Sastry, Advocate leveling certain allegations of corruption, harassment, indiscipline and abuse of official power by the officers and staff of Visakhapatnam-II Division. A preliminary enquiry was conducted by the Additional Commissioner (State Tax), R.O.Office, Visakhapatnam and prima face established, in the reference 2nd read above, Common disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against i) Sri M.Sudhakara Rao, Jt.Commr.(ST), Visakhapatnam-II Division, ii) Sri P.Jayasankar, Dy.Commr.(ST), O/o.Jt.Commr.(ST), Visakhapatnam-II Division; iii) Sri P.Prasanth Kumar, GSTO, O/o.AC(ST), Anakapalli Circle, Visakhapatnam-II Division (now u/s), iv) Sri J.Dharmapal, AEO, O/o.Jt.Commr. (State Tax), Visakhapatnam-II Division, (now u/s); and v) Sri T.Someswara Rao, AEO, O/o Airport Circle, Visakhapatnam-II Division. In the reference 3rd read above, the articles of charges have been framed against Sri M.Sudhakara Rao, Jt.Commr.(ST), Visakhapatnam-II Division. The Charged Officer submitted the explanation and after examining the same, Government have appointed Sri S.E.Krishna Mohan Reddy, Addl.Commissioner O/o.CCST, A.P, as Inquiry Authority and Smt.G.Sumathi, Jt. Commissioner (ST), Kakinada as Presenting Officer vide references 4th and 5th read above respectively.

2. Whereas, as per the orders of Honorable High Court in W.P.No.5934/2023, dt.16.03.2023 and in W.P.No.11972/2023, dt.05.05.2023 Govt., have deleted the names of Sri T.Someswara Rao, AEO, O/o the AC(ST), Airport Circle, Visakhapatnam and Sri Jammu Dharmapal, AEO O/o. Joint Commissioner ST, Visakhapatnam-II Division from the Common disciplinary proceedings issued in

(P.T.O)

G.O.Ms.No.02, Revenue (CT-II) Dept., dt.02.01.2023 and separate action has been initiated by issuing fresh article of charges against both the charged officers as per the directions of the Honorable Court.

3. Whereas, in the reference 8th read above, the Inquiry Officer Sri S.E.Krishna Mohan Reddy has submitted his inquiry report to Govt., for taking further necessary action. As per the findings of the inquiry report of the Inquiry Officer, the Four Charges framed against Sri M. Sudhakara Rao, former JC(ST), VSKP -II Division held proved. Government have examined the Inquiry report and accepted the findings of the Inquiry Officer and the inquiry report was communicated to the Charged Officer, under Rule 21(2) of APCS (CC&A) Rules, 1991, vide reference 11th read above and directed to submit his written representation if any on the findings of Inquiry Officer within stipulated period as specified. On the request of the Charged Officer ample time has been granted by the Government for submitting his explanation. In the reference 12th read above, the Charged Officer has submitted his written representation denying the findings of the Inquiry Officer against the article of charges and requested the Government to take a comprehensive view and he has not committed any misconduct and to drop further action in the matter.

4. Government have examined the report of Inquiry Officer and explanation submitted by the Charged Officer with reference to the record of material available and observed that the Charged Officer as a division head he is totally responsible for any illegal activities committed by the subordinates who are working in his office and totally depended on DC (ST) which gave opportunity to his subordinates and outsiders to raise allegations and the DC and the staff are out of his control and he failed in his day to day administration and also clear super visionary lapse and lack integrity, devotion to duty is held proved.

5. Government after careful examination of the entire matter, have decided to impose a penalty of stoppage of one annual grade increment with cumulative effect on Sri M. Sudhakara Rao, former Jt. Commissioner (ST), Visakhapatnam-II Division, as the Charges-I, II, III & IV were held proved against the Charged Officer-1.

6. Accordingly, Government hereby impose a penalty of stoppage of one annual grade increment with cumulative effect on Sri M. Sudhakara Rao, former Jt. Commissioner (ST), Visakhapatnam-II Division.

7. The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, AP. Kunchanapalli, Guntur district shall take necessary action accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

PEEYUSH KUMAR
PRINCIPAL SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The individual concerned (through the Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Kunchanapalli, A.P., Guntur district)
The Chief Commissioner of State Tax, Kunchanapalli, A.P., Guntur district
The Secretary to Vigilance Commissioner, A.P. Vigilance Commission, Amaravati
SF/SCs

// FORWARDED:: BY ORDER //

SECTION OFFICER